

5-3-2002

The Knight Newspaper

Nova Southeastern University

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THE KNIGHT NEWSPAPER

Volume 12, Issue 9

Nova Southeastern University

May 3, 2002

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Undergraduates Participate in International Medical Missions Project

By Noelle Barrera
Contributing Writer

Lice, gastroenteritis due to parasitic infections, malnutrition, dental carries, impetigo, vision problems, eczema. It sounds like something a person living in the jungles of a developing nation might experience, and that's because it is. These are just some of the most common diagnoses that were given to indigenous Guatemalans during a medical missions trip earlier this year.

In January of 2002, a group of good-hearted NSU students and medical professionals made a ten day trip to Guatemala where they were able to provide free medical care to almost 800 patients in four different towns. This is in a region that usually only has access to a single nurse who rotates through ten to twelve different towns to administer vaccinations and parasitic controls (if they are available), and where the biggest threat to human health is lack of potable water and poverty.

Amidst this talented team of sixty humanitarians were physicians, pharmacists, microbiologists, nurses, physician assistants, medical students, community volunteers, and two NSU undergraduate students, Olga Martinez and Claudia Escobar. Both were allowed to attend because of their bilingual skills, and went through all of the same training sessions the other volunteers did to prepare for the trip.

The organization that sponsors the trip is DOCARE International, a non-profit organization dedicated to serving rural and underserved populations in the Caribbean and South and Central America. A NSU-COM professor, Dr. Camille Bentley, D.O., is the Director of the International Missions Project to Guatemala. It was through talking to her that Olga initially got involved with the project back in 2001, and Olga and her sister Zulma, another NSU undergraduate, went on their first trip with the team in June of that year.

Expenses for the undergraduate students on both trips were kept to a minimum because the total trip cost of \$800 for each was covered by the NSU Undergraduate Student Government Association.

"SGA has been extremely supportive and has allowed us to make a difference in other people's lives, and improve our educational experience outside the United States," says Olga appreciatively.

The following are excerpts from a journal Olga kept in preparation for and during the trip. Also included are photos she brought back, and hopefully these accounts will inspire others to give of themselves to the cause of humanity.

Week #2: January 14-18, 2002:

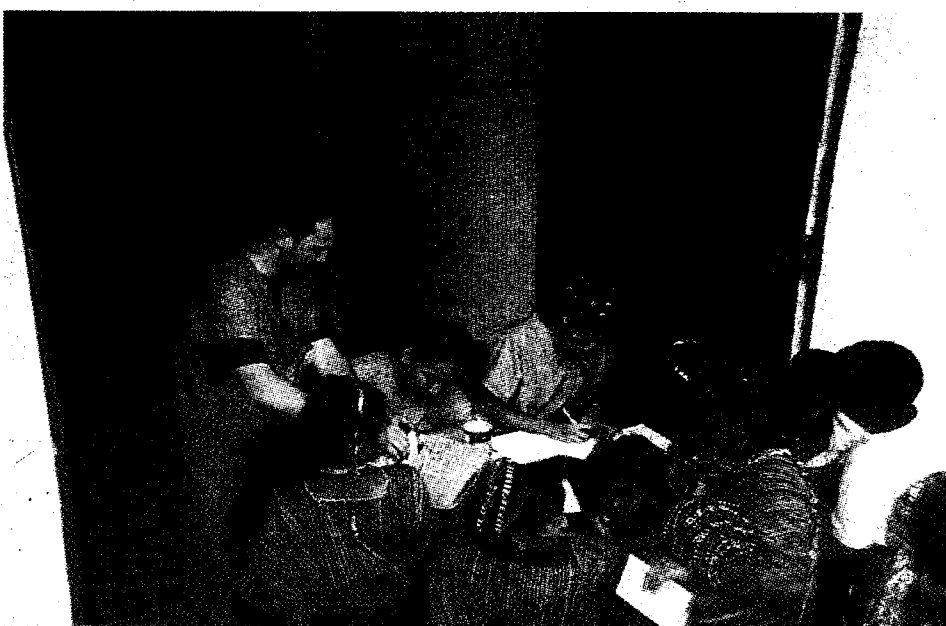
This week has been very intense and suspenseful because we leave on Friday, January 18th at 4:50 pm on TACA Airlines. As last minute preparations, I have contacted all of the interested parties in Guatemala and things are set to run smoothly. On Monday, we all (60 volunteers) met in the Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine Lab (OMM) in HPD to discuss last minutes logistics of the trip; such as, where to meet, when, who was assigned to which station bag or suitcase, and handing out room assignments, airline tickets, polo shirts, and Pepto-Bismol (just in case!). The meeting was very important and informative. Also, we reviewed some Osteopathic Manipulative Techniques to treat patients with ailments such as migraines, serous otitis, back strains, and neck/shoulder spasms. The OMM Fellow, Jen Wilkerson, gave the presentation.

Finally, Friday arrived and the group met at NSU to take a chartered bus to MIA. We took off at exactly 4:50 and by 6:10 (Central time) we were arriving in Guatemala City. This was the first time that I had arrived there in the evening and it looked beautiful, the lights from the houses on the sides of the mountains and the car lights. Once we passed customs (without a problem) we all flooded the banks to exchange our money (exchange rate \$1.00 = Q 7.80).

After about an hour and a half, we left via Antigua. About an hour and a



Pre-Med Student Olga Martinez with Alex and his sisters in Santa Katarina.



San Antonio Palopo Registration/Intake Station
Student Physician Daniel McGee (M-I), Pre-Med Student Olga M. Martinez, and Hazel Robles (M-I).

half later we arrived in one of the most beautiful and picturesque cities that I have ever seen. The roads all paved in cobblestone, the walls of all the Colonial Spanish haciendas and homes painted in bright hues (yellow, blue, green, and pink). The bright-lit moon shining on the Spanish tiled roofs and the shadows cast from the balconies. It is a quaint city, peaceful and catering to tourists.

The two buses took the volunteers to the two hotels we were staying at (Hotel Aurora and Posada Hermano Pedro). I stayed at Hotel Aurora (better than I ever expected) a hacienda with a beautifully colored, lit fountain in the center of the garden. It was so quiet and beautiful, almost breathtaking.

See Guatemala, Page 13

University School's Justin Marcus Named Nova Southeastern University's Student of the Year

Staff Reports

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL- The University School's Justin Marcus edged out 14 other students from each of Nova Southeastern University's schools, centers, and colleges, to capture the top honor at Tuesday night's third annual Student Life Achievement Awards celebration.

Marcus was named NSU's Student of the Year in front of a capacity crowd of 500 at the Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center at Nova Southeastern University's Library, Research, and Information Technology Center.

Other winners from last night's ceremony included:

• Staff Person of the Year: Esther Weiner
• Administrator of the Year: Dr. Morton Terry

• Graduate Club of the Year: Hispanic Law Student Association

• Undergraduate Organization of the Year: Indian and Muslim Association

• Greek Organization of the Year: Delta Phi Epsilon

• Co-Curricular Advisor of the Year: Charlotte Paolini

• Male Athlete of the Year: Ryan Morris

• Female Athlete of the Year: Candice Carréno

• Corporate Partner of the Year: Broward County Commissioners

• Professor of the Year: Dr. William Kelleher

• Academic Dean of the Year: Dr. Honggang Yang

• Alumnus of the Year: Mary Mizell

• Extended Community Member of the Year: Cynthia Miller

Respective NSU school, center, and college Student of the Year winners were: Sunil Patel,

Farquhar Center for Undergraduate Studies; Brian Hierholzer, Pharmacy; Reza Ardalan, Dental; Kelly Over, Allied Health; Chad Powers, Law Center; Matt Owen, Wayne Huizenga Graduate School of Business and Entrepreneurship; Tonya Davidian, Oceanography; Kate Richmond, Center for Psychological Studies; Cheyenne Corbett, Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences; Joanna Greenblatt, Osteopathic Medicine; Lori Vollmer, Optometry; Nina Tufenkjian, Fischler Graduate School of Education and Human Services; and Michael Weber, Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences.

For more information, contact NSU's Office of Student Affairs at (954) 262-7283.

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A Letter From the President

With the advent of the opening of the new Library, Research, and Information Technology Center and the introduction of Broward County residents to our campus, the continued assurance of parking places for our students, faculty, and staff has become even more acute.

Therefore, university officials have been planning for more than a year to introduce strict enforcement of parking restrictions for the general public in order to protect those spaces reserved for students, faculty, and staff.

Beginning June 1, 2002, Nova Southeastern University will be the contract enforcement agency for the Town of Davie for the issuance of Davie parking citations, fines, penalties, or other legal actions. Contrary to prior years at NSU, such citations will have the full effect of state law that municipalities enjoy.

Toward that effort, please be sure that you 1) park in designated areas for students, faculty, or staff; 2) use your SmartCard when appropriate; and 3) prominently display your parking decal. If you do not display your NSU parking decal, you will be subject to receiving a parking citation.

Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Ray Ferrero, Jr.
President
Nova Southeastern University



The Knight serves Nova Southeastern University's Center for Undergraduate Studies from the first floor of the Parker Building of NSU's Main Campus.

The Knight is NSU's established vehicle for the transmission of student reporting, opinion and arts. All community members are invited to contribute anything they desire to *The Knight*.

The Knight is readily available at several sites around the main campus.

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Do you want to promote an upcoming campus event in a professional, informative and entertaining news medium? *The Knight* staff is now accepting submissions of articles, photos, and other information for publication. You can submit your information to the Knight staff at knight@nsu.edu or by mail to: *The Knight*, 1000 University Blvd., NSU Main Campus, Parker Building, First Floor, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33328.

Late *Knight* Changes

By Jason Fraser
Editor-in-Chief
jfraser@nova.edu

To all you loyal readers, this is not a late April fool's joke; there is a new name listed above. I think I'd like to start off by introducing myself and answering a few questions you might have about how I came to be "The Knight's" new Editor-in-chief. First off, I am a sophomore here in Nova's Pre-Med program, and have a great interest in the paper. Most of my previous jobs have been as a musician, playing the cello and the electric bass, obviously giving me a lot of experience in the newspaper business (yeah right). Personally, I think it was my promise not to ramble on about proud Canada and women that got me the job, but hey, that's just me. As a side note, I hail from right here in South Florida. This is where you come in, as hopefully, with your help, the Knight Newspaper can become a powerful voice for all the undergraduates here at Nova. I would encourage everyone to contribute to your paper (after all, it is *your* paper), either by applying for one of the many positions we have open, writing an article or letter, or even by telling us what you would like to see covered.

Secondly, you might be asking what happened to the old editor, Michael Jacobs. Unfortunately, Michael is no longer with us, having passed on to that great beyond which some would call nirvana, some would call eternal damnation, but most would call his second year of dental school. Everyone here would certainly like to thank Mike for all his work and wish him luck in his studies. I would personally like to wish him luck in his pursuit of women now that he no longer has control over this prime advertising space.

Overall, I would really like to stress my commitment to the Knight, and assure all of you that I will try my best to continue the goal of running a newspaper by and for the students of Nova. Also, I commit to not furthering the agenda of Canada over all other countries; the Knight is now an equal opportunity promoter. However this is not a goal that the staff here and I can obtain by ourselves. We need other students to give us ideas and articles, and we have positions here for everyone from people who enjoy the intricacies of grammar and punctuation, to those of you who like to lift heavy objects and drive golf carts around campus.

Is it just wishful thinking to say that this coming year will be the best the Knight has ever had? Hopefully, with your help, this dream will be realized.

Break up your classroom routine with some hands-on experience! Earn college credit while having a blast as a member of the business, editorial, or layout staff of "The Knight." The voice of NSU's undergraduate population needs you, and a semester of journalism training may earn you three college credits, the same as a course! Contact Dr. Karen Tolchin, Editorial Advisor to "The Knight," at (954) 262-8225, or email her at ktolchin@nova.edu for more information about this fantastic opportunity. Don't miss out!

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NSU Clinic Pharmacy

By Ira Naiman, RPh, PharmD
Pharmacy Manager
Contributing Writer

Welcome back to our column. Through the last few issues, we introduced ourselves to all of you who were not aware that a fully licensed Pharmacy is located next to the Ziff Health Center, facing University Drive. We serve students, employees, and the general public. The Pharmacy is owned by NSU, staffed by NSU employees, and accepts most insurance plans.

This issue we will look at a popular way students and other people on the go take in their nutrition. Generally speaking, the average person eats poorly, even though this country is blessed with a n abundance of food. It's not the quantity that is the problem, but the quality of some of it. We consume too much fat, too m u c h refined sugar, and foods containing few vitamins or minerals. I know, I know, it tastes good.

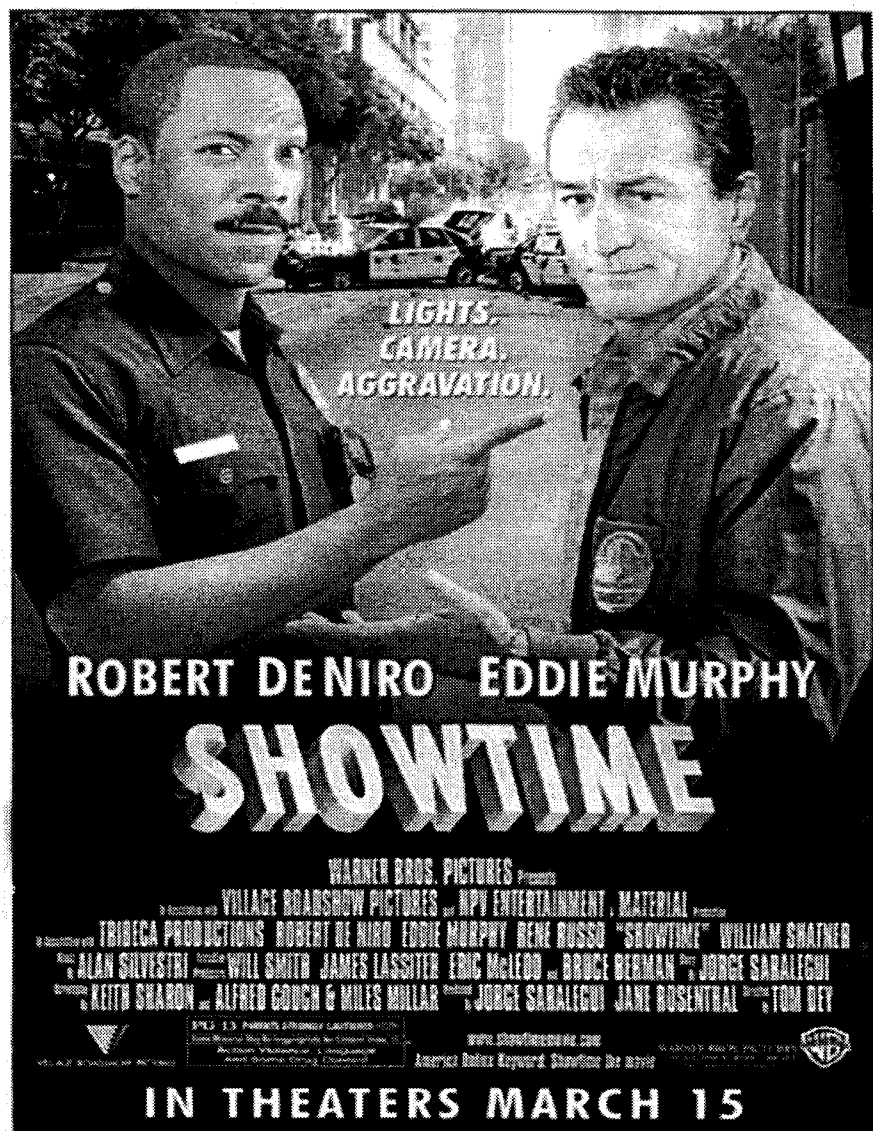
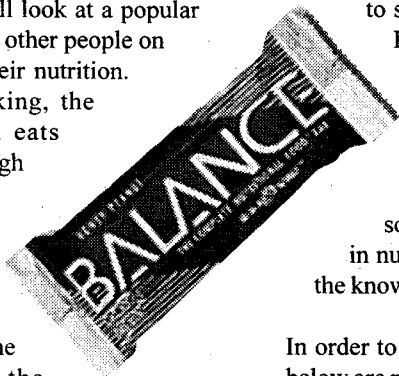
Compounding the problem is our lack of time, which prevents us from picking better choices. After all, who has time to cook?

Even if you did cook, it's sometimes difficult to schlepp (carry) the food around from class to class. What's a mother to do? One answer to this dilemma became the nutrition bar. The object was to put a balanced diet in an easily carried form. The bar contains a large dose of vitamins and minerals, and a balance of protein, fat and carbohydrates. This nutrition bar was destined to become more than a snack, it evolved into a meal replacement.

So far so good. Then some industrious thinkers saw they could manipulate the protein/fat/carbo proportions to appeal to specific segments of the market. For the athletes, pump up the protein. For the weight watchers, reduce the carbs. For women and vegetable-minded people, introduce the wonder of soy as the protein source. There are so many choices in nutritional bars, that even those in the know can get dazzled.

In order to help our fellow NSU'ers, listed below are most (because we get new flavors in from time to time) of the nutrition bars stocked in our Clinic Pharmacy. Notice that I listed them by category, it makes it easier to see the trends. Happy munching!

NSU Clinic Pharmacy can be reached at (954) 262-4550, and the hours are as follows: Mon-Fri 9AM-5PM, Saturday 9AM-1PM, Closed Sunday.



PRODUCT	PROT (gm)	CARBS (gm)	FAT (gm)	CALORIES
Pure Protein Blueberry	30	14	4	270
Pure Protein S'mores	30	5	4 ½	280
Pure Protein Strawberry Cheese Cake	30	7	5	270
Pure Protein Vanilla Malted	30	24	5	280
Pure Protein Peanut Butter	33	9	6	280
Pure Protein Chewy Choc Chip	32	14	5	280
Pure Protein Lemon Chiffon	30	2	5	290
Pure Protein Raspberry Vanilla	30	29	5	280
Doctor's Low Carb S'mores	21	2 ½	4	204
Doctor's Low Carb Banana Nut	21	2	4	208
Met-Rx Big 100 Extreme Vanilla	27	53	1	330
Met-Rx Choc Graham Cracker Chip	27	48	2 ½	320
Met-Rx Fudge Brownie	26	52	2 ½	320
Met-Rx Chocolate Chip	27	50	4	340
Balance Outdoors Nut Berry	15	21	6	200
Balance Almond Brownie	14	22	6	200
Balance Choc Raspberry Fudge	14	22	6	200
Balance Yogurt Honey Peanut	14	22	6	200

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News

Alpha Chi Now a Part of NSU Community

Contributing Writer
Professor Stephen Levitt

Once, and sometimes twice a year, the best students at the Farquhar Center will get a letter from the Dean's Office asking them to join Alpha Chi. Some, after reading the invitation carefully, accept this offer. Others are not sure what Alpha Chi is and why they should join. The purpose of this short article is to tell students about the Alpha Chi Honor Society at the Farquhar Center.

The Alpha Chi Handbook states the following:

"Alpha Chi is a coeducational society whose purpose is to promote academic excellence and exemplary character among college and university students and to honor those who achieve such distinction."

What does all this mean? It means that Alpha Chi is a national undergraduate honor society that is found on more than three hundred campuses in forty-five states. If a student is at the top of his or her class, that student may be inducted into Alpha Chi; this is noted on his/her permanent transcript. Employers and graduate schools recognize the significance of induction into Alpha Chi.

Each year, students ask, "how can I join?" Well to be honest you cannot join unless you receive a formal invitation from the Dean's Office. In fact, most students will not be invited to join Alpha Chi. The rules of the association state that only students fulfilling the following four criteria may be given an invitation letter. In order to be invited to be a member of Alpha Chi a student must:

- i. have obtained at least sixty university credits
- ii. have obtained at least twenty-four credits at the host institution (NSU)
- iii. be in the top ten percent of his or her major
- iv. have at least a 3.5 Grade Point Average

This means, for example, that if your major has one hundred students, only ten may be invited each year to join Alpha Chi. In some years, less than ten might actually qualify. There certainly exist majors where students are in the top ten percent, but they don't have a 3.5 cumulative grade point average. In addition, when the calculations are done, it is possible that inducted members from the previous year will still hold standing in the top ten per cent of the major.

Alpha Chi is neither a fraternity like Sigma Alpha Mu nor a sorority like Alpha Phi Omega. It is not really similar to Phi Alpha Delta, the legal fraternity, or any other student organization. There are no dances. There are no picnics, no bake sales, and no car washes. Rather, once a year there is an induction ceremony where new members recite the Alpha Chi motto and swear to uphold the ideals of the organization. In some years, there is a dinner prior to or after to the ceremony. In other years, there may be a speaker invited to talk to the members.

So you may ask, what is the advantage of membership? First, Alpha Chi inductees are members for life. Second, their membership is noted at the headquarters in Searcy Arkansas. Third, this honor is recorded on the final transcript of the student.

At the Farquhar Center, we don't have the designations "graduated with honors" nor do we rank students. Therefore, the main designation that we use to tell the world that this student was the top of his or her class is Alpha Chi membership.

Trust me when I tell you this. If you are invited to join next year in February or March, join. Fill out the application form immediately and return it. This will be one of the finest entries that you can add to your resume while still at the undergraduate level and one of the best long-term investments in your future.

Alpha Chi membership honors and formally recognizes academic achievement. This may help with scholarships. Membership might open doors to graduate schools. Membership in Alpha Chi impresses employers.

Therefore, if you should be one of the very few honored with an invitation, please take the time to fill in the form, and send in the membership fee. It will be one of the smartest moves you can make in your undergraduate career.

Below are some pictures of the Alpha Chi induction ceremony that was held this year on March 25.



Officers of Alpha Chi, Craig Dean (left) and Jeff Hall (right), at the Induction Ceremony on March 25, 2002.



From left to right: Assistant Professor, Stephen Levitt, Mrs. Beverly Shirley, Mrs. Monica Hanson, Alpha Chi Member Tricia Hanson, and Dean Norma Goonen at the 2002 Alpha Chi induction ceremony.

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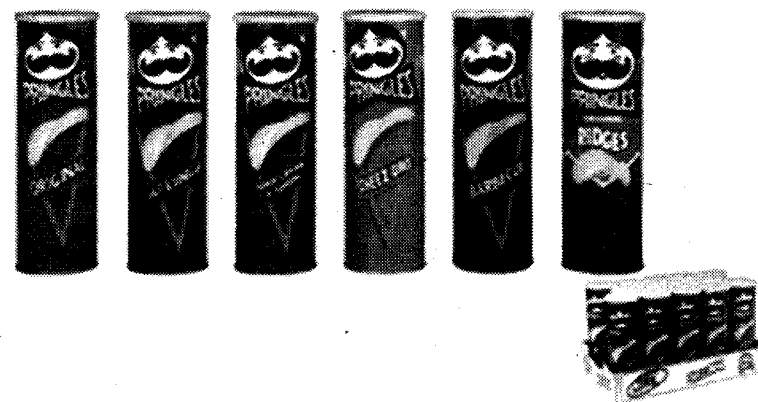
CINCINNATI—(COLLEGIATE PRESSWIRE)—Crunch, munch, smile and say Pringles! America's favorite potato crisp is looking to catch teens and young adults snacking on Pringles for a chance to appear on a Times Square billboard that will be unveiled this summer.

Pringles is searching for the new face of snacking by inviting young Pringles lovers from across the US and Canada to mail in their "snack and smile" photos to the Pringles News Bureau at 225 North Michigan Avenue, 21st Floor Chicago, Ill. 60601. To participate, young adults are invited to grab a can of their favorite flavor of Pringles and strike a pose, for a chance to appear on a Times Square billboard. Photo entries must be standard 4x6 inch color photos that include entrant's name, age, email address, and signature (limit one person per photo). Entries must be received by May 6, 2002 and will not be returned. Pringles will unveil the billboard and the new face of snacking on or

around June 5, 2002 in New York City and simultaneously at pringles.com.

"Pringles is reaching out to young adults to celebrate Mr. Pringles in a fun and social way," Pringles Brand Manager Julie Eddleman said. "This opportunity allows Pringles lovers to creatively showcase their own snacking style. We have found that featuring real people in ads captures the fun-loving spirit of Pringles." For complete details on the promotion's rules and regulations, visit <http://www.pringles.com>.

Pringles will donate one dollar for each photo collected, up to \$5,000, to SHiNE (Seeking Harmony in Neighborhoods Everyday), a national non-profit organization that empowers young people to promote respect for diversity and end youth violence. SHiNE's innovative programming uses art, music, technology and sports to inspire and facilitate creative forms of expression and action. For more information about SHiNE, visit shine.com.



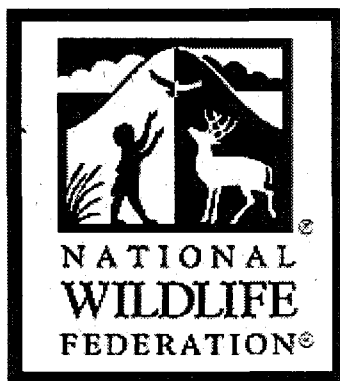
NWF's Campus Ecology Fellowship Program

Staff Reports

Interested in transforming your campus into a learning and teaching model of environmental sustainability? National Wildlife Federation's Campus Ecology Fellowship Program offers the perfect opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to harness their vision of a green campus, by working collaboratively with staff, faculty, and administrators. Through this nationally recognized program, fellows receive a modest grant, project support, networking among current and alumni fellows and NWF interns, and so much more.

During previous academic years, fellowship projects ranged from campus-wide environmentally sound purchasing initiatives to native landscaping and habitat restoration on campus and adjacent lands. In addition to making concrete strides towards a more environmentally sustainable campus, several of these fellows attribute these experiences to great job opportunities in the conservation field, securing such positions with the California Governors Sustainable Building Task Force and the Trust for Public Land.

Access updated grant guidelines and application information, learn about new fellowship opportunities with NWF's Population and Environmental Program and plan your project now by viewing the Campus Environmental Yearbook entries and previous Fellowship project descriptions. <http://www.nwf.org/campusecology/fellowships.cfm>



Internship Opportunities:

NWF's Conservation Internship Program offers a complimentary set of leadership development opportunities, as interns and fellows receive invaluable training, professional experience, and networking opportunities. NWF interns are based in NWF's Reston, Virginia headquarters and field offices around the country; Anchorage, AK; Seattle, WA; Missoula, MT; San Diego, CA; Boulder, CO; Austin, TX; Ann Arbor, MI; Montpelier, VT; Atlanta GA, or our office in Washington, DC where they are integrated into a wide variety of NWF departmental programs, all of which advance our conservation efforts.

To learn more about the Internship Program, including position openings, visit <http://www.nwf.org/jobopps/index.cfm>.

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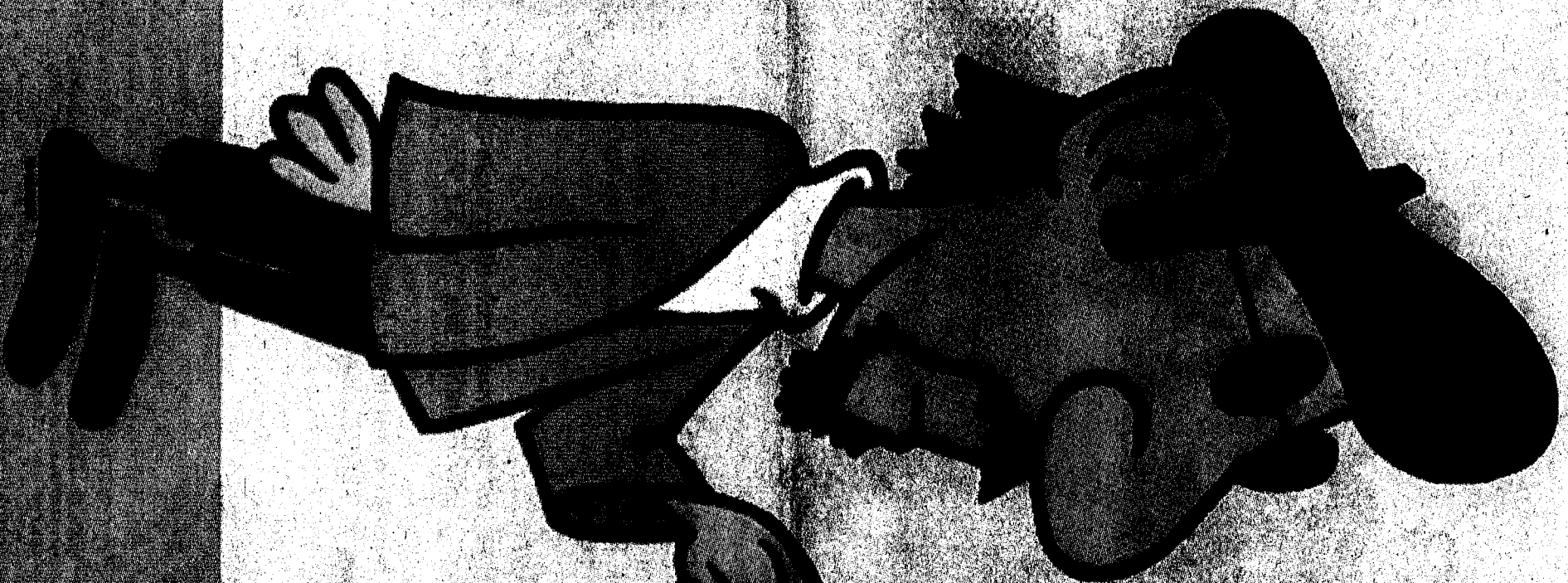
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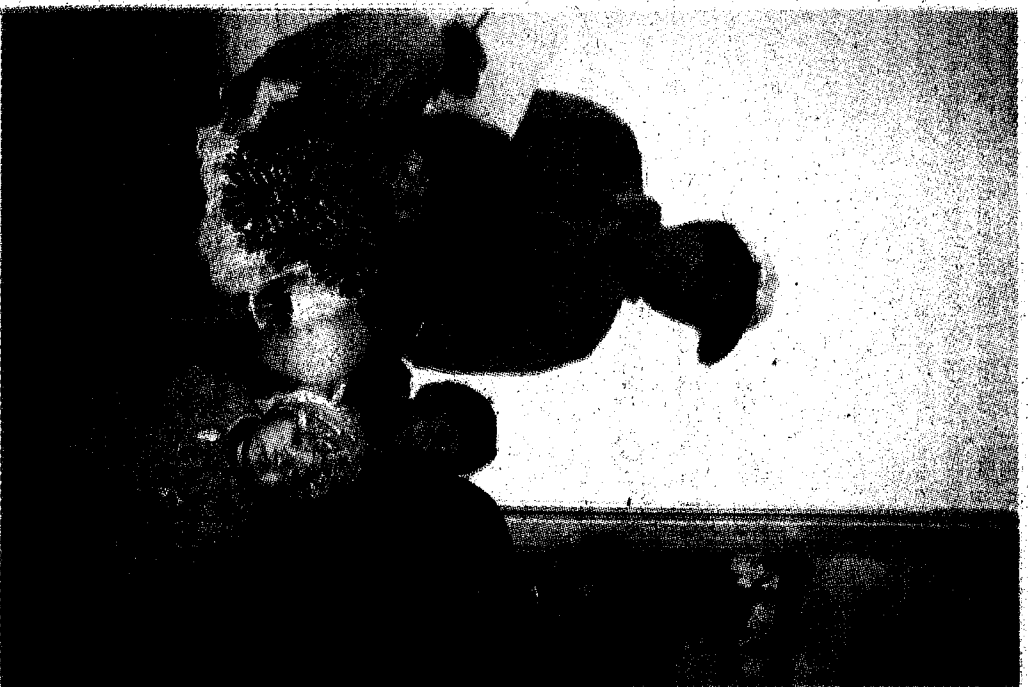
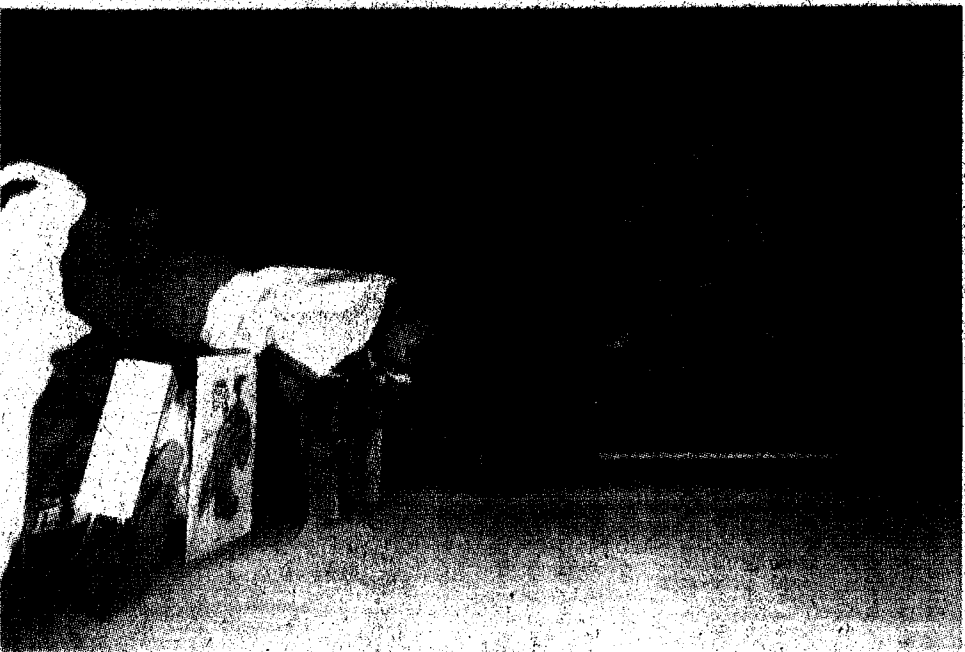
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Starting Clockwise from Bottom:
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Family in Santa Katarina waiting
to be seen; Little children in
Santa Katarina coloring in the
Vitala Station; Boats departing
from Panajachel to Santa
Katarina and San Antonio on our
first day of work; Girls in San
Antonio Palopo (Sisters) with
Student Physician Bob Ebener
(M-III).

Guatemala

Continued from Front Page

The room was gorgeous, very clean and traditional.

Saturday, January 19, 2002:

We woke up early today and opened the door to a beautiful and scenic garden in the center of the hacienda. The employees at the hacienda escorted us to the breakfast area and we had a traditional Guatemalan breakfast (scrambled eggs with tomatoes, onions, and cheese; toast, Guatemalan coffee, fresh-squeezed orange juice, and fresh cut fruits from the country) which was excellent.

Later, we all met at our hotel to discuss the upcoming week and to do some ice-breakers to get to know each other better. The meeting lasted approximately 2.5 hours. Afterwards, we went to eat dinner at the Santo Domingo Convent, which is now a five star hotel. It was very traditional; we even had a trio sing to us during our dinner. It was surprising to see how many tourists were in the area; in every restaurant, museum, and store, you would hear a different language being spoken.

Sunday, January 20, 2002:

Today I woke up early because the buses were coming to pick us up at 10 a.m. I packed and went to eat breakfast. During our wait, we saw our first patient, a 10 year old boy with a reconstructed right elbow. However, his surgery was done incorrectly and his elbow was dislocated, therefore disabling his right hand and arm. The parents brought the X-rays to us and we reviewed his history. We referred him to a specialist in Guatemala City. We are going to try to get him funding for the surgery he needs upon our return.

We left Antigua around 11am via Panajachel, Solola in Atitlan. We arrived there at 3:30 pm and went to each respective hotel. I was fortunate to get a room with a balcony facing the lake and the three volcanoes in the background. It is really a spectacular view like no other. At 5 pm we all met in the conference room to divide all of the medications into the appropriate station bags. Also, a list was posted as to where we would work the first day and which towns we would be working at. I was going with team B to Santa Katarina and the other group was going to San Antonio, Palopo. I was assigned to work in the Intake center, registering patients. I love working intake because you really get to talk to the natives and interact with them on a different level. They're all interested in asking you questions and they stare at you for minutes at a time. They see us so differently.

Week #3: January 21-27, 2002:

Monday, January 21:

At three o'clock in the morning the rooster (same one from last year) began

crowding in the farmhouse behind our hotel (evidently he's confused). It crowed and crowed, and crowed...louder and louder. Then, you could hear the dogs and the cows and the birds (including the parrot on the first floor that cried like a baby and laughed like a witch). By 5 am they were all in harmony and basically it was impossible to sleep. I got up and got ready for a day I had anxiously awaited. Since this was my second time here in Guatemala, the suspense of not knowing what the town would be like or how the people were going to be was not an issue. I could see in the volunteer's faces that had never been here and some that had never been out of the US that they were anxious and obviously excited. All I could tell them was that they would be pleasantly surprised. And I was right. We all met in the garden of our hotel, we picked up our assigned luggage and all wearing scrubs walked down to the dock to await our boat (our means of transportation). The boat finally arrived (it was big), we loaded and departed via Santa Katarina. Fifteen minutes later we arrived.

It took us about forty-five minutes to set up completely. We divided the rooms between intake, vitals, exam rooms, pharmacy, and microbiology. We began registering patients and bringing them in. We had a line of about 100 patients waiting to be seen. They stood patiently for hours waiting and waiting. I loved looking at their expressions.

Their faces are so beautiful, young and old, and the children are mature beyond their years. The men's faces have an expression of aches and pains from carrying wood on their backs, their eyes are dry, and the sclera is almost grey because of the smoke from the burning of the wood. Their skin is dry also often with lichenification due to the sun exposure from working in the fields all day. However, they still smile; it really is impressive how some people in this world work so hard and have so little material wise, but their spiritual being, culture, and family lives are so rich...they're happy. There's so much to learn from cultures as rich as this one.

We officially closed the clinic by 4 pm and began organizing for our return to Panajachel. Nonetheless, we still had patients coming to the entrance asking for a ticket, it's so hard to turn them away. Fortunately, the other group is coming here tomorrow. We gave out more tickets and told them to be here early. I suspect a big line will be awaiting tomorrow's group.

Around 4:30 we boarded the boat and departed towards Panajachel. When we got to Panajachel, we met in the conference room and discussed the sites and how they were run, since we are switching sites tomorrow. We organized the medications and made sure we had enough to provide the people with. Also, we got our assignments for San Antonio (team B). I will work vitals half day and the other half in registration.

Tuesday, January 22, 2001:

As expected, upon our arrival in San Antonio and after the hike up to the "proyecto" where we were working at, about 100 patients were patiently waiting in line for us to set up and begin our registration process. Immediately we pulled out our supplies: rope, sheets, and plastic garbage bags to cut and hang from side to side. This created a rustic clinic with enough privacy for the physicians to work with the patients. We handed out the numbers and began registering them. By 1 pm we had seen well over 110 patients in our 8 stations. We took a short lunch break and went back to work. Before we left we saw once again for the 4th time the albino twins, their albino sister and aunt. They stopped by to see us but they were too shy to be seen by the doctors. They do this every year. We worked at San Antonio until 4:30 and then departed via Panajachel.

Wednesday, January 23, 2001:

My group team B got the day off. With some of the volunteers we went to the Nature Reserve in Panajachel (it has hanging bridges over the river and by the waterfalls). Afterwards, we went to Hotel Atitlan (the best hotel in Guatemala) to eat lunch and relax. It was truly beautiful. We took a boat there and back. Some of the other students and doctors decided to go kayaking in Lake Atitlan. They had a great day too. Needless to say they also got the worst sunburns ever.

Team A went to Santa Cruz. It was at this site that a very interesting case was seen: Ehlers-Danlos, a genetic disease causing hyperextensibility of the joints due to a collagen deficiency. In total they saw about 150 patients at this site.

Thursday, January 24, 2002:

My team went to work in Santa Cruz de la Laguna and team A went to Jaibolito, perhaps the poorest of all the towns we visit. They worked there until late in the afternoon and they were able to see about 110 out of the 300 people that live in the town. This town has neither electricity nor running water. Also, the school is three open classrooms made of cement block. They barely have any desks and the chalkboard is very old. Of course, our visit was a distraction, and they were so excited.

Fortunately because team A had worked in Santa Cruz the day before, the set up was already done and we were able to immediately begin working. In Santa Cruz I was assigned to work with a Primary Care Physician, Dr. Tasha Bielby. She let me do the physical exams while she wrote the patient history and the findings. I learned a lot with her and I was extremely excited because I had patient contact and was allowed to play the health-care provider role. At Santa Cruz, we saw a lot of lice, Ascaris, Giardiasis, hyperpigmentation such as

Mongolian spots, and musculoskeletal problems. At one of the other stations, a baby has a rare form of a glycogen storage disease which has caused him to develop hepatosplenomegaly. The baby an 8 month old also has findings of possible Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome. The baby is very sick and is not expected to live long. This was probably the most interesting case seen at this site. We worked in Santa Cruz until about 4:30 and then we went home, to Panajachel.

Friday, January 25, 2002:

Team A had the day off today. My team on the other hand went to Jaibolito to work. By 2 pm we had seen the remainder of the inhabitants of this town. The most interesting case seen at this town was an osteomyelitis on the feet and ankles of an 80 year old. The people there were great. We left all of our supplies and also donated school supplies and medications for their medicine cabinet, enough to last until we return in June. On our way to the boat, we had about 50 local children follow us to the boat, they were so excited to have us there, but sad to let us go. We nearly caused a riot because we gave out candy and pencils, it was nothing like I have ever seen. Once the boat took off we all looked at the town as we left it behind. It was our last day of work and I thought, "I am definitely going to miss this."

Saturday and Sunday, January 26 and 27, 2002:

In the afternoon on Saturday we departed to Guatemala City. We arrived at the Hotel Conquistador Ramada in the city around 7 pm. It was really beautiful, but we were so tired most ate dinner and then went to bed. The next morning we were up at 3 am because we had to be at the airport by 6 am in order to check in on time. Our flight departed at 8:45 am and we landed in Miami at noon. We had a great flight. Again, this was a successful medical mission. We accomplished all of our goals and better yet, we were able to touch the lives of over 1100 patients in the course of the week. They await our return and we await the opportunity to share a couple of days with them in upcoming medical missions.

Week #4: January 28-February 1, 2002:

Upon our return, Dr. Bentley gave me a few days off so that I could recuperate from the trip and so that my stomach could settle back to normal. By Thursday, I was back in her office. This trip was also a success because Dr. Bentley developed a chart system for all the patients that have been seen over the past four trips. This allows for continuous care and for an established history per patient.

For more information on DOCARE or how to support their efforts, email Dr. Bentley at cbentley@nova.edu.

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TRI RAIL



Sports

Men's Golf News

Todd Gittleman
Contributing Writer

Lake Wales, FL — Ryan Cobb finished first overall to help the NSU Knights earn the Florida Sun Conference Title. Nova Southeastern University as a team placed second overall behind 6th ranked Johnson & Wales University, FL.

Two other Knights finished in the top 20 as well. Freshman Michael Ciccarella finished 12th overall with a final score of 224. Not far behind was Freshman Duncan Smith who finished tied for 13th place with a final score of 226. Freshman Eric Levesque missed the top 20 cut by two strokes, shooting a 231, putting him in a three-way tie for 21st.

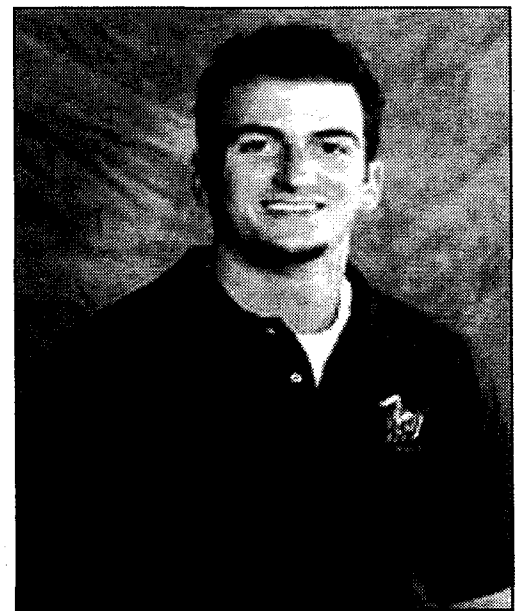
With Cobb's first place finish, he earned himself an automatic bid to the National Tournament. It is undetermined as to if the rest of the team will be competing in Nationals as well. The National Tournament is on May 14 at the Matanzas Woods Golf Club in Palm Coast, FL.

Women's Golf News

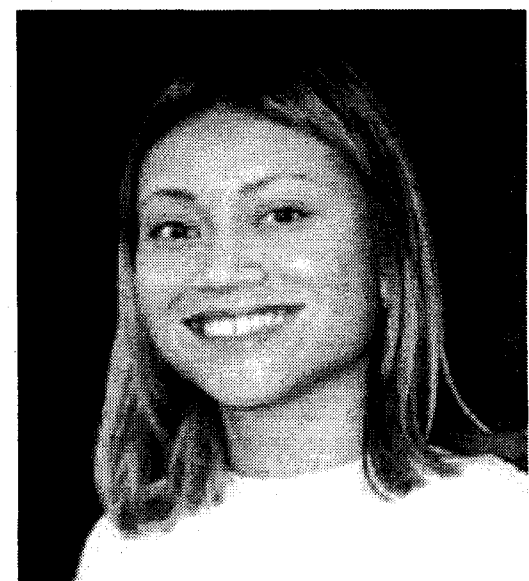
Todd Gittleman
Contributing Writer

Lake Wales, FL - Nova Southeastern University finished second overall in the NAIA Region XIV Tournament, one shot behind the first place team Northwood University, FL.

All five of NSU's golfers finished in the top 20 when the tournament was over. Senior Freska Darlison placed the highest for NSU with her 158 score, putting her tied for 2nd place. Freshman Amanda Brown finished one stroke behind her teammate with a score of 159, earning her 4th place. Sophomore Ellen Chavkin finished tied for 9th with a score of 163. Sophomore's Rebecca Pomichter and Emily Sisson rounded out the rest of NSU's squad. Pomichter finished 14th, shooting a 171 and Sisson finished 17th with a final score of 173.



Ryan Cobb 1st place finisher at the Florida Sun Conference.



Freska Darlison tied for 2nd place in the NAIA Region XIV Tournament.

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Stanford University's Daniel Wright Wins 2002 Sun Microsystems and TopCoder Collegiate Challenge

Lafayette, CO Resident Beats Out 15 Competitors for \$100,000 Grand Prize

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.—(COLLEGIATE PRESSWIRE)—Stanford University junior Daniel Wright (Lafayette, CO) has won the 2002 Sun Microsystems, Inc. and TopCoder Collegiate Challenge, held at the University Park Hotel @ MIT in Cambridge, Massachusetts April 19-20. Wright beat out 15 programmers from some of the nation's most prominent schools for computer science for the \$100,000 grand prize.

TopCoder is a company committed to identifying and promoting computer programming, and uses competitions like these to attract and rate highly skilled programmers. Sun Microsystems, Inc. is the world leader in systems and solutions that make the Net work.

"It's really nice to win after making the semifinals in last year's Collegiate Challenge and finishing second in the Invitational," said Wright. "I would like to thank both Sun and TopCoder for hosting an event that allows students like me to sharpen my Java programming skills and better position me for a great job when I graduate."

Wright entered the Collegiate Challenge as the second seed in the West region, and beat Ling Li of the California Institute of Technology, Dan Adkins of the University of California-Berkeley, and Joe Nievelt of the Michigan Technological University, in the final round.

"Daniel is arguably the top-collegiate computer programmer in the country," said TopCoder Founder and Chairman Jack Hughes. "Winning a competition that brought together the top 512 collegiate programmers is a tremendous accomplishment."

"The quality of the competition was outstanding," said Stans Kleijnen, vice president, market development engineering at Sun Microsystems, Inc. "Sun is proud to be the exclusive sponsor of the 2002 TopCoder Collegiate Challenge, which clearly identified some of the best collegiate programmers in the country."

Semi-finalists in the tournament were: Ben Wilhelm (Oberlin College), Tom Sirgedas (University of Michigan-Ann Arbor), Nathan Paymer and Po-Shen Loh (California Institute of Technology), James Esser (Univer-

sity of Minnesota-Twin Cities), Trayton Otto (Georgia Tech), Logan Hanks (Virginia Tech), Jon Salz (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Eugene Davydov and Ante Derek (Stanford University), Jeremy Haubold (Purdue University), and Ambrose Feinstein (University of Central Florida).

TopCoder leverages the results of the Collegiate Challenge, along with its annual Invitational Tournament, and other weekly competitions, to create a national database of talent-differentiated student and professional programmers.

"TopCoder serves to bring excellent programmers together with leading companies in search of high-tech talent," said Hughes, a veteran programmer. "We're confident our programming competitions test and reflect real-world coding skills in a way that's valuable to our constituents. Our fast growing membership base is already proof of that. By hosting these competitions, TopCoder provides the means for leading companies to assess the upper echelon of computer programmers."

About TopCoder, Inc.

TopCoder, Inc. organizes and hosts online and onsite programming competitions for its members. With a global membership database, TopCoder members extend across all professional and collegiate levels. The attraction of competition and the associated rewards create a powerful community of programmers. Access to this community is granted to corporate partners who both promote and profit from the relationship. For more information and registration details, visit www.topcoder.com.

About Sun Developer ConnectionSM Program

Building on Sun's vision to enable services on demand with the latest open technologies, the Sun Developer Connection (SDC) offers individual developers and software development partners a single, worldwide entry point to build a technical and business relationship with Sun. As one of the largest developer communities in the world, the SDC

is the connection to Sun for comprehensive resources to build and market solutions leveraging Sun's open technologies, products, business development, and community forums. All programs, registration and eligibility information can be found at <http://www.sun.com/sdc>.

The Sun Student Technology Associate Representative (STAR) program is designed to empower university students to deliver cutting-edge technology presentations, to their peers and gain valuable experience and industry in-

sight in the process. For more information about the STAR program, go to: <http://www.sun.com/developers/evangcentral/students/sunstar.html>



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New Era Meeting With WRC 'Productive' Company Calls for Objective Review

DERBY, N.Y.—(BW SportsWire via COLLEGIATE PRESSWIRE)—New Era Cap Company held a productive meeting Tuesday with, and at the request of, the Worker Rights Consortium.

The company presented the WRC and university representatives with a detailed 900-page report responding to WRC's request for information and provided a tour of its Derby, New York facility.

"The answers and documents we supplied to the WRC - along with the open tour of our facility - demonstrate that we are a well run company, an excellent employer and shows our commitment to meet or exceed WRC's code of conduct," said President Chris Koch. "Now that the WRC has had a chance to see for themselves what we are all about, we hope they will take an objective view of the evidence we presented and make an informed decision."

New Era is an 82-year-old maker of high quality ball caps, supplying Major League Baseball with all its caps. Unlike the vast majority of other apparel manufacturers, New Era makes 90 percent of its caps in the U.S. and is the last American company capable of supplying domestically produced caps to major professional and college sports teams.

The meeting with the WRC is part of an ongoing process that began in February when the company supplied the WRC with a written response to its initial questions. The WRC then requested additional information, which led to the meeting and the issuance of the 900-page report. New Era views the meeting as a positive step that should move both sides toward a more constructive relationship.

The WRC's mandate is to ensure that companies licensed to do business with colleges and universities are meeting a certain "code of conduct" that includes providing a healthy and safe workplace, respecting employees' rights. New Era meets all of these criteria, and

has provided concrete evidence that dispels the assertions made in a preliminary WRC report, which the company has strongly rejected.

"The goal of the WRC is laudable," said Koch. "What we hope can happen from here is that the WRC will work with us on a forward-going basis to make our good working environment even better."

Over the past few years, New Era has spent in excess of \$1 million dollars to upgrade equipment, automate processes, install safety mechanisms and implement health and safety programs at all its facilities, which are recognized as being state of the art in the apparel industry.

As part of New Era's ongoing ergonomics program, the company is in its third year of a State of New York grant researching and implementing an innovative ergonomics program that focuses on employee education and behavioral changes to reduce repetitive stress injuries.

This month, for the fourth consecutive year, the company is being recognized at one of its Alabama production facilities for not having a single lost time injury. This facility, located in Demopolis, Alabama, is one of the largest sewing facilities in a state that has lost scores of apparel manufacturing jobs due to cheap foreign labor.

New Era has invited independent auditors into all of its facilities to verify its safe working conditions and fair labor practices. That audit gave the company a good review on both counts, and high marks for New Era's health and safety plan and its history of correcting problems as soon as they arose.

New Era also pays its 1,500 workers some of the highest wages in the garment industry during a time when large apparel manufacturers are closing factories and moving American jobs overseas to countries where labor is significantly cheaper.



Dean Hashimoto,
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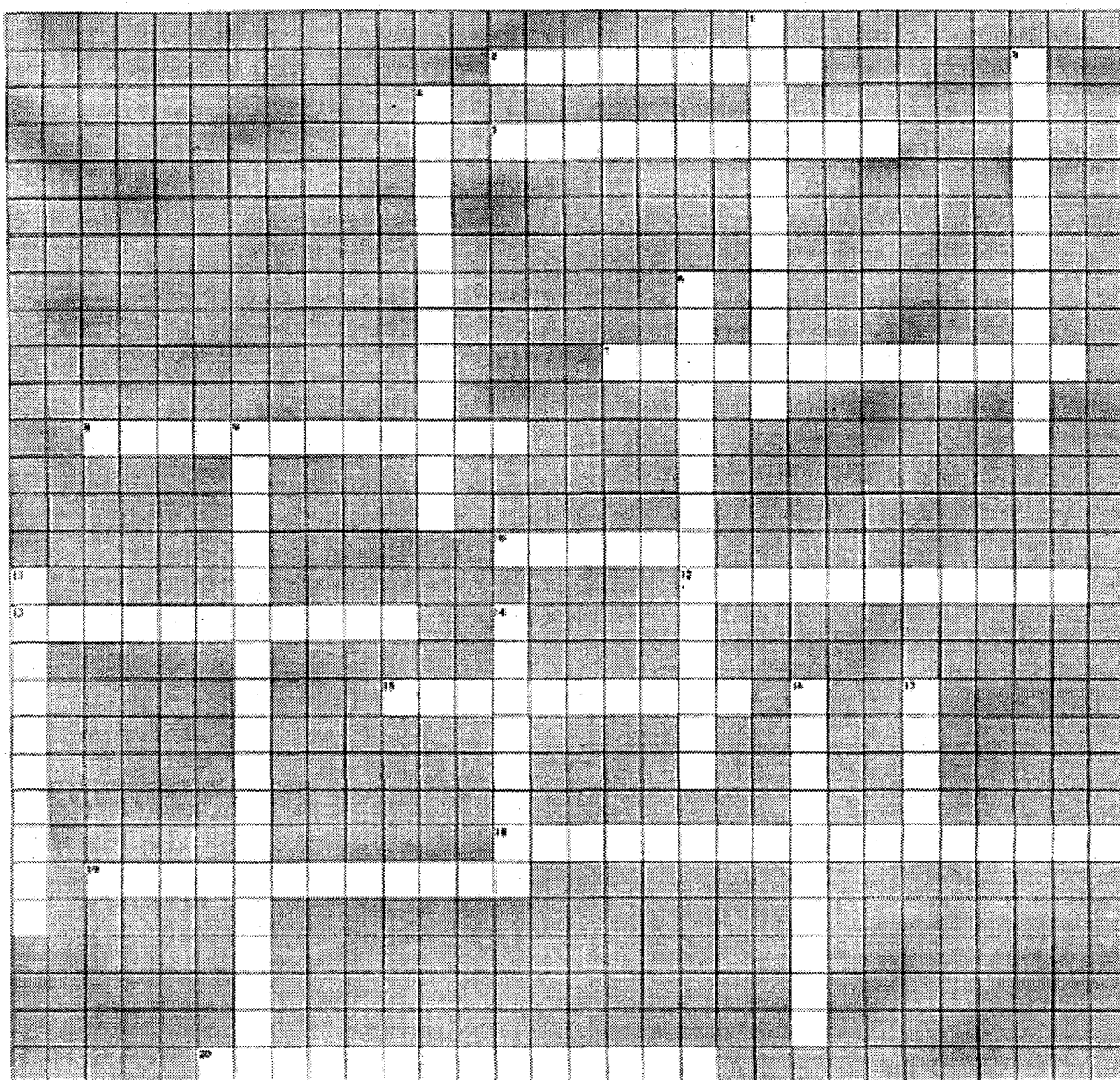
Across

2. First, he fought for the Crown. Now he's fighting for the Family Jewels
4. An exclusive golf course has to deal with a brash new member
5. To ruin a western town, a corrupt political boss appoints a black sheriff, who promptly becomes his most formidable adversary
7. Eddie and Lou are a couple of two-bit con men on the lam from a loan shark
8. FBI agent Barney Coopersmith is assigned to protect former Mafia figure
9. Holden falls in love with lesbian Alyssa, which threatens both their friendship, and his friendship and working relation with Banky
11. Two bumbling government employees think they are U.S. spies, only to discover that they are actually decoys
14. There's something about your first piece
15. The Army made Eugene a man. But Daisy gave him basic training!
16. Warning: The guys who did 'Dumb & Dumber' and 'Kingpin' bring you a love story
17. New York's most powerful gangster is about to get in touch with his feelings. _YOU_ try telling him his 50 minutes are up
18. Every summer Chevy Chase takes his family on a little trip. This year he went too far
19. Just because they serve you doesn't mean they like you
20. A reclusive ogre and a chatterbox donkey go on a quest to rescue a princess for a tyrannical midget lord

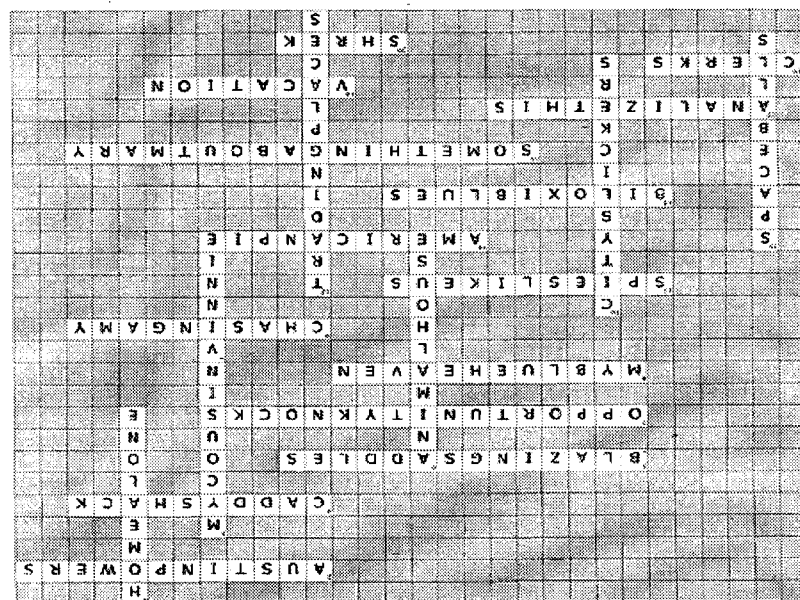
Down

1. An eight year-old, who is accidentally left behind while his family flies to France for Christmas, has to defend his home against idiotic burglar's
3. Bill and Stan are mistaken for murderers while on vacation, and Bill's family sends his

Comedies

Created by The Knight Newspaper with EclipseCrossword by Green Eclipse Software — www.greeneclipsesoftware.com/eclipsecrossword

- cousin to defend them for his first case as a lawyer
6. It was the Deltas against the rules... the rules lost!
10. A mid-life crisis plagued man and his friends find renewal and purpose on a cattle driving vacation
12. A snobbish investor and a wily street con artist find their positions reversed as part of a bet by two callous millionaires
13. Planet Spaceball's President Scroob sends Lord Dark Helmet to steal Planet Druidia's abundant supply of air to replenish their own, and only Lone Starr can stop them

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Comedies

SunFest Announces 20th Annivesary Festival

Florida's Largest Music, Art & Waterfront Festival Gears Up For 2002 Event

WEST PALM BEACH, FL – Looking for something to do this week? Why not head down to SunFest, Florida's largest music, art, and waterfront festival, which is celebrating its 20th year during SunFest 2002. Held May 1 through 5 along the Intracoastal Waterway in downtown West Palm Beach, festival guests may celebrate 20 years of SunFest with a special Anniversary Celebration on May 1st including performances by singer/slide guitarist Bonnie Raitt, fiery funkster Rick James, and '70s band War. Also on opening night will be the new SunFest at Sundown celebration featuring Key West-style street entertainers.

Other performers confirmed for this year's festival include No Doubt; the Doobie Brothers; Nickelback; Earth, Wind & Fire; Edgar Winter; George Thorogood; Huey Dunbar; Ja Rule; Jeff Lorber; The Knack; O-Town; Sense Field and many more acts including local and regional entertainers.

On Friday, May 3 through Sunday, May 5, SunFest guests may enjoy an art show and craft marketplace. The two shows feature more than 160 fine artists and 50 crafters from all over the world. Fireworks are planned to light up the SunFest skies on Friday at 9 p.m.

For more information about SunFest 2002, visit www.sunfest.com or call (561) 659-5980 or 800-SUNFEST. Check the SunFest Web site for a complete schedule of SunFest's more than 50 concerts as well as photos and sound bytes of performers.

Bank of America Stage
Wednesday, May 1, 2002
5:00PM Zach Ziskin (pop)
6:30PM Theresa Lindstrom (blues/rock)
8:00PM Bonnie Raitt (blues/rock)

Thursday, May 2, 2002
5:00PM Prior Life (new rock)
6:30PM Dezerays Hammer (new rock)
8:15PM No Doubt (new rock)

Friday, May 3, 2002
1:30PM Riff (fusion)
3:15PM Allan Harris (jazz)
5:00PM Strange Daze (classic rock)
7:15PM Doobie Brothers (classic rock)
9:20PM Zepplia (classic rock)

Saturday, May 4, 2002
12:00PM Active Ingredients (rock)
1:45PM Ruff House (reggae)
3:30PM Israel Vibration & The Roots Radics Band (reggae)
5:30PM Damsel in this Dress (rock)
7:15PM Greenwheel (rock)
9:00PM Nickelback (rock)

Sunday, May 5, 2002
12:00PM Jimmy Stowe (island/tropical)
1:45PM Sweet Justice (reggae)
3:00PM Yellowman (reggae)
5:30PM Valerie Tyson Band (r&b)
7:15PM Earth, Wind & Fire (r&b)

The Real Yellow Pages Stage
Wednesday, May 1, 2002
5:00PM A2Z Band (classic rock)
6:30PM Ruby Baker (r&b)
8:15PM WAR (classic rock)

Thursday, May 2, 2002
5:00PM The Locals (blues)
6:15PM The Dillingers (blues)
8:00PM George Thorogood (blues/rock)

Friday, May 3, 2002
2:00PM Thursday's Child (pop)
3:30PM Wallstreet (pop)
5:00PM Libido (r&b/hip-hop)
7:30PM Ja Rule (hip hop)
9:20PM Fifth Avenue (pop)

Saturday, May 4, 2002
11:00 AM Hurley Skateboarding Demo
1:00PM Hurley Skateboarding Demo
3:30PM Remember the Ocean (new rock)
5:15PM Sean Michael Mormelo (pop/rock)
7:00PM Hep Cat Boo Daddies (pop/funkabilly)
8:45PM Edgar Winter (classic rock)

Sunday, May 5, 2002
11:00 AM Hurley Skateboarding Demo
1:00PM Hurley Skateboarding Demo
3:00PM Alex Bach (pop)
4:15PM The Curve (new rock)
5:45PM John Wesley (pop)
7:45PM Sense Field (emo/punk-pop)

Florida Crystals Stage
Wednesday, May 1, 2002
5:00PM The Lady "A" Blues Band (blues)
6:30PM Hashbrown (funk/jazz)
8:30PM Rick James (r&b/funk)

Thursday, May 2, 2002
Re-Opens Friday

Friday, May 3, 2002
1:00PM Gold Coast Dance Band (jazz)
2:45PM CountItOff (jazz/fusion)
4:30PM Gary King (vocal jazz)
5:45PM Sorelle (teen pop)



7:00PM LMNT (teen pop)
7:45PM O-Town (teen pop)

Saturday, May 4, 2002
12:00PM Sam Faso Orchestra (traditional jazz)
2:00PM Blatent Disregard (jazz/fusion)
3:45PM Warren Hill (jazz)
5:15PM Santana Tribute (Latin rock)
7:00PM Carlos Daniels (Latin pop)

8:30PM Huey Dunbar (Latin pop)
Sunday, May 5, 2002
12:00PM Vibrations Jazz Ensemble
2:00PM Ray Oram Mostly Jazz Onsemble
4:00PM Jeff Lorber (jazz)
5:30PM Sha-Shaty/Richard Smith (jazz)
7:30PM The Knack (80's rock)

"If we don't believe in freedom of expression for people we despise, we don't believe in it at all."
— Noam Chomsky

"If A equals success, then the formula is: A=X+Y+Z. X is work. Y is play. Z is keep your mouth shut."
— Albert Einstein

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Panic ... Fincher Directs Bad Movie

By **Dennis Heard**
SpyboyXXX@aol.com

Fort Lauderdale, FL—David Fincher's "Seven" is perhaps the best psychological mystery drama the '90's had to offer and is definitely in the top 100 of the best movies of all time. Fincher also directed the infamous "Fight Club" which is easily one of the most intellectually intriguing and comprehensive (fighting and mayhem for the gents and Pitt/Norton shirtless for the ladies) movies ever, and in the top 50 of the best movies of all time. Thus, it is only more than logical to get excited about his latest project "Panic Room" ... optimistically.

This "suspenseful thriller" is a tale of Meg Altman (Jodie Foster) and her daughter, two women just getting over a divorce and looking for a new home. They acquire a unique New York brownstone with an even more exceptional room inside. "It was supposed to be the safest room in the house." However, when three burglars, masterminded by Burnham (Forest Whitaker) come looking for a hidden fortune left by the previous owner, the cat-and-mouse game

begins, and the mouse hole may become their final resting place.

The mother/daughter team of Meg and Sarah Altman are about as good as it gets as far as characters go in this film, and that is not saying much. Jodie Foster performs extremely well as the "average woman turned hero." From drinking in the bath to escape the reality of her divorce to sucking propane to save her daughter, she makes the movie (if one could call the movie "made"). Everyone else was "blah." For example, Jared Leto's character, Junior (main protagonist), is a silly twist of an insult to my time in a leather suit and cornrows. From his mindless comments to lighting his arm on fire, after seeing this, I think mandatory vasectomies should become a prevalent program in modern society. Overall, as the Heard equation states: bad characters = bad movie.

As hyped up as the movie was, it is just not scary. The plot development is pretty straightforward and predictable. The only thing scary about this movie was how well Fincher blended the CGI (computer generated images) with actual footage. No camera angle was out of bounds; from



coffee pot to keyholes, Fincher takes the viewer into every nook and cranny this film has to offer. However, these cute bells and whistles do not make a movie.

Overall, this movie gets a whopping four out of ten steel-reinforced doors. This film gets its four-point-rating because one has

to give kudos to Ms. Foster and the last scene was a fantastic resolution to a horribly mediocre movie. So, run and check it out if you feel the urge but I think it best (if you absolutely NEED to see this movie) to make it a Blockbuster night.

The Nation's Leading Comic Book Publishers and Retailers Unite to Celebrate Free Comic Book Day

COLLEGIATE PRESSWIRE

NEW YORK—In the wake of one of this summer's biggest blockbuster movies - Spider-Man - the comic book industry's leading publishers have united with over 2,000 comic book shops to present an unprecedented event - Free Comic Book Day. This historic occasion will both celebrate and raise awareness of this American-born art-form, which has been thrust into the public spotlight thanks to the recent influx of movies and other

media inspired by comic books. A free copy of the industry's most popular titles - from publishers such as Dark Horse Comics, DC Comics, Image Comics, Marvel Comics and others - will be available to all people who enter comic book specialty shops on May 4. A way to salute the medium, unite the highly-competitive industry, and invite new readers to visit their local comics shops, the world-wide give-away will occur just one day after Sony's North American release of Spider-Man starring Tobey Maguire and Kirsten Dunst, and less the two weeks before the premiere of Star Wars: Episode II — Attack of the Clones, which also has comic book connections.

"It's not often that companies in any industry get together to promote their products, and for that reason, Free Comic Book Day represents a proud 'first' for comics in more ways than one," said Dark Horse Publisher, Mike Richardson. "We're working alongside our friends from other companies, giving away an amazing product, and promoting Star Wars: Episode II - our biggest book of the year. It's win-win in all directions."

"Comics present a unique way to involve a diverse audience of readers," said Bob Wayne, Vice President - Sales & Marketing for DC Comics. "Through this groundbreaking promotional effort, more people will be introduced to the

joys of reading — and shopping for — comics."

"Comics have come of age as a medium of creative expression. Regardless of your age, background or tastes we have a book for you. Please join us on May 4 and see what you're missing," added Jim Valentino, VP-Publisher, Image Comics, Inc.

"It has been said that there have been three unique art-forms to come out of America - 'jazz, musicals, and comic books' - it's about time we all celebrate the latter," said Joe Quesada Marvel Comics Editor-in-Chief. "The success of comic-based movies has proven the popularity of these characters and has given the industry the perfect forum to re-introduce America to this amazing medium."

As part of the promotion Marvel Comics will publish a free issue of its top-selling Ultimate Spider-Man, DC will offer the first issue of Justice League Adventures (based on the top-rated Cartoon Network series), Dark Horse will contribute a brand new story that ties into the upcoming Star Wars: Episode II — Attack of the Clones, and Image will publish the origin of Lara Croft, Tomb Raider, star of videogames and movies.

In addition, dozens of other comic book publishers will be contributing free titles, covering the entire spectrum of genres and styles, from classic children's humor like Archie to

sophisticated sci-fi action like The Matrix.

Nearly 2 million comics will be available for give-away during this single day event. Free Comic Book Day will be supported by an extensive online initiative, point-of-sale posters, and a massive PR and advertising campaign. The official website for the event is www.FreeComicBookDay.com, which contains features on the history of comic books in America, a complete list of available free titles, and a search function to help readers find a participating store near them.

"Unlike the large chain stores that dominate most types of retailing, comic book shops are independently owned and operated by individuals in their communities," said Roger Fletcher, Vice President of Sales & Marketing for Diamond Comic Distributors, the national distributor that is helping to coordinate the effort. "As a result, each store is as individual as its owner, adding to the incredible diversity in the comic book field. Readers of all ages will be delighted by the broad range of entertaining and artful reading material available at their local comic book store."

"The secret is out," concluded Joe Field, owner of Flying Colors Comics in Concord, California and the originator of the Free Comic Book Day promotion. "Since other media rely on comics for many of their brightest ideas, we know the time is right to invite the world to check out the amazing source material."

